

INTRODUCTION OF REMOVING FEDERAL BARRIERS TO OFFER- ING OF MOBILE WAGERS ON IN- DIAN LANDS ACT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today, I introduced the Removing Federal Barriers to Offering of Mobile Wagers on Indian Lands Act. Tribal government gaming is the primary source of revenue for hundreds of tribal nations throughout this country who otherwise would not have the basic resources to provide for the health, safety and general welfare of their citizens and others who live on tribal lands. This economic development activity has been key to tribal economies since the United States Supreme Court first affirmed the inherent sovereign right of tribal governments to conduct gaming on their lands in 1987. A year later, in 1988, Congress enacted restrictions on tribal government gaming through the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. This law affirmed the right of tribal governments to conduct gaming on their lands but tried to balance the equities between tribal and state governments when tribes are conducting Las Vegas style gaming.

Not every tribal nation is able to conduct gaming, but for those who are located in viable gaming markets, it has proven to be one of their more successful economic ventures. Many tribal nations have become economic engines in their regions, employing thousands of people and investing tens of millions of dollars into the regional economies on an annual basis.

However, the gaming industry is quickly evolving and more and more states are legalizing some form of gaming activity that primarily utilizes the internet. Sophisticated, well-financed digital companies that did not exist even ten years ago are changing the gaming industry before our eyes. Online sports betting seems to be the popular choice this year for many state legislatures.

As tribal governments begin to prepare to move their gaming activities into the online world, there have been some questions about whether such gaming activities would continue to be primarily governed by the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. The federal law governing tribal gaming was enacted in 1988, prior to the internet being readily available, and the law does not expressly address the internet. As you can imagine, setting up these new gaming systems involves significant financial investments. Tribal governments should not be required to make these investments without having clarity and comfort of what laws will apply to them. For that reason, I am introducing this bill to clarify the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and make clear what the congressional drafters would have done in 1988 had the internet been around at time. This bill would clarify that for purposes of tribal government gaming, the location of the wager occurs at the location of the server, unless a state and Indian tribe otherwise agree. Making this clarification will keep intact the current system of tribal gaming and eliminate any frivolous litigation. Tribal government gaming has been around for more than 30 years and this bill merely clarifies how that system of gaming should evolve into the internet.

This bill does not authorize any type of internet gaming; that is within the authority of each state to do. All this bill does is clarifies the location of where the wager takes place for purposes of tribal government gaming. It clarifies that internet gaming will be conducted by tribal governments under the same framework that they currently conduct gaming in their physical casinos.

As someone who has long lived in a state with more than 110 federally recognized tribal nations, I have seen firsthand how tribal government gaming has benefitted the tribal nations, their citizens, the surrounding communities and the state government. This bill is merely intended to provide some clarity and comfort as tribal gaming moves into the next frontier of the internet. As the United States Supreme Court confirmed in 1987, tribal governments retained the inherent sovereign right to conduct gaming on their lands. Congress needs to provide the clarification in my bill to ensure that tribal gaming is not relegated to the same fate as Blockbuster, but can move forward and thrive like Netflix in the era of the internet.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, there is a special place in every parent's heart for summer with our children.

My son, Jordan, used to put on his little cleats and a big hat, and run out onto the field to play TeeBall with his friends on Saturday mornings.

After that, we'd go to the pool to cool off, eat lunch under a shady tree, play in the backyard as day turned to dusk, and read a story together as he drifted off to sleep.

Truly, summer is for hard-working parents to spend time with the little ones they love most. It is for our children to grow and live and play.

And that's why I'm so proud we just passed the Child Tax Credit into law. It means more money in the pockets of middle class families.

Now, over 680,000 families here in Georgia will receive a tax cut, and these credits will lift over 160,000 children out of poverty.

This is more funding for Georgia families to protect our children and lift up our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHIP ROY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 197; NAY on Roll Call No. 198; NAY on Roll Call No. 199; NAY on Roll Call No. 200; NAY on Roll Call No. 201; YEA on Roll Call No. 202; NAY on Roll Call No. 203; and YEA on Roll Call No. 204.

INVESTING IN A NEW VISION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUR- FACE TRANSPORTATION IN AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAHANA HAYES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mrs. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to Amendment No. 97/ No. 188 of H.R. 3684, the INVEST in America Act.

This amendment was included as part of an en bloc which I supported, however, I do not support this amendment. During my time in Congress I have been an ardent supporter of high-speed rail, building rail capacity and improving existing infrastructure in Connecticut, the Northeast, and across the country. Unfortunately, I do not believe this amendment and the specific compact it seeks to create are the best path forward for rail in my state, the region or the country. The INVEST in America Act presents us with an opportunity to make a once in a generation investment in our transportation systems and infrastructure, and in rail in particular. I am concerned that proposals like this take away from our ability to implement comprehensive, fully vetted plans, that are free of redundancies.

As we look towards the future of rail in the United States, we must be sure that we partner with state and local transit authorities, and stakeholders. We must also be sure to consider and mitigate the climate and environmental risks that stem from these projects.

Congress must advance a bold vision for our Nation's infrastructure, and I look forward to the INVEST in America Act passing the House. I hope the Senate will quickly begin working on this vital issue.

RECOGNIZING BRUCE WARNER'S PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a distinguished citizen of my state of Oregon. Bruce Warner has spent his life in public service in a significant variety of roles.

Today, Bruce steps down after ten years as Board President of the TriMet Board of Directors, which is my region's major transit district. During that time, he oversaw successful labor negotiations, a commitment to transition to zero-emission buses, the construction of a new light rail line, and the hiring of executives, managers, and employees that reflect the greatest number of people of color in a public agency in Oregon.

His devotion to serving his community is truly exceptional.

He was born in Fork, Washington and raised in Port Angeles. He graduated from the University of Washington in civil engineering, and while he is a Husky fanatic, we have never held that against him. He is an Oregonian not by birth but by heart.

He began his career as a young civil engineer designing parks and culverts before